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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Thursday - 27 October 1955

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1. At the request of DD/S I talked with Mr. Johnson of the staff of the House Committee on Post Office & Civil Service regarding Chairman Murray's letter to the Director of 14 October (similar to that sent to all Government agencies) urging each agency to make a thorough management and personnel self-evaluation looking toward a 10% reduction in manpower. I explained certain of our problems to Mr. Johnson, particularly the fact that where we have been able to eliminate projects very often the world situation dictates that we initiate new projects with more manpower than that which has just been eliminated. I pointed out further that the written reports requested would be of a security nature and that such reports as could be transmitted should be handled on an oral basis. Mr. Johnson pointed out the extremely friendly relations existing between the Committee, its staff and CIA, and that as Mr. Belen had previously stated to me there was no present intention to have the Agency appear before the Davis Subcommittee. Mr. Johnson stated that he thought there was some possibility that a special subcommittee of Chairman Murray, Mr. Rees and possibly Subcommittee Chairman Davis might wish to discuss these problems with us, but that in any event he felt that it was important for CIA to go through the self-analysis exercise indicated in Mr. Murray's letter. He stated that the mere fact that CIA would put itself through this self-analysis, as all other agencies were being requested to do, would be of tremendous help to CIA vis-a-vis members of Congress who knew nothing about us and who felt that perhaps CIA would never engage in such an analysis. Mr. Johnson conceded that it was very possible that perhaps CIA could not reduce any of its personnel or that having made such reductions it would have to increase its totals because of added functions, but that this possibility was also understood. He stated further that if when we talked with Mr. Belen or Chairman Murray, in order to make some sort of a report, we were able to state that we had undertaken this exercise to get an indication of steps we had taken in the past or were taking on a continuing basis, it would be very effective. However, there was no desire to get into security fields as such. I have discussed this matter with Col. White and Mr. Kirkpatrick, both of whom agree that CIA should undertake the surveys requested, and I will prepare an appropriate letter to Chairman Murray indicating our approach.

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2. OCR [] has received a formal request from the Air Force indicating its desire to participate in a formal debriefing under CIA auspices of Sen. Russell, together with Lt. Col. Hathaway who accompanied him on his recent trip to Russia. I advised Mr. [] to tell the Air Force that Sen. Russell found it necessary to return to Georgia for a short trip following which he would return, and that we would see what steps could be taken. Meanwhile, G-2 has again called OCR to state that they would make Col. Hathaway available for a joint debriefing with Sen. Russell, under CIA auspices if desired, or would undertake a separate debriefing of Col. Hathaway under G-2 auspices if that were preferable. In view of Sen. Russell's absence, it may be that G-2 should proceed to arrange for a debriefing of Col. Hathaway.

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